

DOCTRINE OF WINE

- I. Introduction.
- A. Wine is introduced in the Scriptures as early as Gen.9 and then mentioned throughout the Bible.
 - B. The Biblical vocabulary indicates that wine was a beverage that contained alcohol.
 - C. The manufacture, possession or drinking of wine is not denigrated by the WOG.
 - D. Fundyism has reacted to the abuses of alcohol and ascribed attitudes and prohibitions in regard to wine that the Bible does not advocate.
 - E. These restrictions of more modern times came from the so-called temperance movement, not from BD.
 - F. Many legalists advocate that drinking is a sin and at best makes one less than an adjusted believer.
- II. Vocabulary
- A. Hebrew vocabulary.
 - 1. יַיִן - yayin; used 140x: wine, fermented grape juice which contains alcohol and produces intoxication if taken in sufficient quantity.
 - 2. תִּירוֹשׁ – tiyros; used 38x: new wine; is differentiated from “yayin” and may be unfermented (pre-aged) though some fermentation may be present (cp.Hos:4:11).
 - 3. מִמְסָס – mimsas; used 2x: mixed or spiced wine.
 - 4. עֲסִיס – asiys; used 5x: sweet wine.
 - 5. שְׂמָרִים – shemariym; used 5x: fine old wine with sediment called dregs or lees and needs to be decanted.
 - 6. שֶׁכָר – shekar: used 23x, strong drink other than wine containing high alcohol content able to quickly heighten drunkenness or numb the senses. Cf.Pro.31:6; Isa.28:7. The cognate verb “shaker” means drinking to drunkenness.
 - B. Greek vocabulary.
 - 1. οἶνος – oinos; used 33x: wine, comparable to the Hebrew *yayin*.
 - 2. γλεῦκος – gleukos; used 1x: new wine, comparable to the Hebrew *tiyros*.
 - 3. σίκερα – sikera; used 1x: strong drink, liquor (Luk.1:15).
 - 4. γέννημα τῆς ἀμπέλου – gennema tes ampelou; phrase used 3x: fruit of the vine. Used only by Christ in connection with the observance of the Lord's table.
- III. The first mention of wine in Scripture is that of Noah's vineyard. Gen.9:20,21
- A. Noah, a mature believer, over indulged and became drunk (first record of this sin).
 - B. The Scripture, however, does not support the contention that wine production is evil. Cf.Deu.14:23,26
- IV. The first miracle Jesus performed was turning water into wine to manifest His Divine nature. Joh.2:1-11; 4:46
- A. As God, He honored the institution of marriage by His presence and by His generous gift of good wine (approx. 150 gallons).
 - B. While the potential for abuse was there, He still created the best wine last.

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- C. Wine is a detail of life provided by God for the enjoyment of mankind. Judg.9:13; Psa.104:15, a bona fide product when not used to excess.
- V. In Israel an abundance of new wine was an indication of Divine blessing in the land. Deu.7:13; 11:14; 32:14; 33:28
- A. Israel was to tithe the new wine. Deu.12:17; 14:23; 18:4
 - B. Under the cycles of discipline God cursed the vine. Deu.28:39,51; Judg. 6:11 speaks of an empty wine vat.
 - C. David had extensive wine cellars. 1Chr.27:27
 - D. Application of BD assured the individual of prosperity with wine. Pro.3:10 cp.9:2,5
- VI. Wine and the Day of the Lord.
- A. The USA is a major importer of wine. Rev.18:13
 - B. Wine (and alcohol) will be expensive (Rev.6:6) and will not sustain (Isa.24:7,9).
 - C. Metaphorically the nations are viewed as grapes of wrath placed in God's wine press. Rev.19:15 cp.14:17-20; Gen.49:11; Isa.63:2,3; Joel 3:13
 - D. God will bless Israel with abundant wine production in the Millennium. Joel 2:19,22,24; 3:18; Amos 9:13,14; Zec.9:17 cp.Isa.27:1-6
 - E. The Lord Himself will provide a continuous banquet of choice red meat and good, aged, red wine for all who worship at Zion. Isa.25:6
- VII. Wine is mentioned in connection with:
- A. BD which brings happiness. Luk.5:37-39; Isa.55:1
 - B. Category 2 love. SOS.1:2,4; 4:10; 7:9
 - C. Positional truth. Joh.15:1ff
 - D. Happiness (+H). Zec.10:7
 - E. Judgment. Lam.1:15; Joel 3:13
 - F. False doctrine. Jer.51:7 cp.Rev.18:3; Deu.32:32,33
- VIII. The godliness code and wine.
- A. The godliness code forbids drunkenness. Eph.5:18 cp.Rom.13:13; 1Cor.5:11; 6:10; 1Pet.4:3
 - B. Drinking is not to violate the Law of Love. Rom.14:21
 - C. It warns church leaders to avoid excess. 1Tim.3:3,8
 - D. Wine is part of the pastor's code in moderation. 1Tim.5:23
- IX. Old sin nature activity associated with the abuse of wine and other alcoholic drinks:
- A. Basic drunkenness. Gen.9:21
 - B. Alcoholism. Pro.23:29-35
 - C. Gluttony. Pro.23:20,21
 - D. Fornication. Gen.19:32-36; 1Pet.4:3
 - E. Violence. Pro.20:1
 - F. Dissipation (wasting time). Eph.5:18; Isa.5:10-12, Poverty existed due to the pursuit of pleasure. Ten acres yielding ten gallons of wine is a bust!

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- G. Degeneracy, idolatry and emotional revolt of the soul. Dan.5:2-4,22,23
- X. Some unique cases of abstinence.
- A. Nazirites were forbidden to drink wine or consume any product associated with the vine. Num.6:1-4,20; Judg.13:4,7,14; Amos 2:12; Luk.1:15
 - B. Kings were advised to abstain from wine when ruling. Pro.31:4,5
 - C. Priests were not to drink before service. Lev.10:9-11
- XI. Biblical guidelines.
- A. Each believer should recognize that there is a time and a place for everything. Ecc.3:1
 - B. Recognize that wine is a detail of life and that you are not to pursue it.
 - C. There are inherent dangers associated with drinking, so you should do so only when all Biblical and moral obligations are safeguarded (consider the Law of Love, time, place, associates, etc.).
 - D. Some physical and niche factors may militate against drinking at all.
 - E. Do not violate the Laws of Divine Establishment.
 - F. While alcohol in moderation is a bona fide product, in excess it reduces one's inhibitions. Those with strong norms and standards in FHS are less likely to abuse it.

*“He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and vegetation
For the labor of man, so that he may bring food
From the earth, and wine that makes man’s heart glad,
So that he may make his face glisten with oil,
And food which sustains man’s heart”.*

Psa.104:14-15